

## **Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson Robert M. Garvin, Commissioner Mark Meyer, Commissioner 610 North Whitney Way P.O. Box 7854 Madison, WI 53707-7854

For Immediate Release – November 7, 2005

Contact: Linda Barth or Amanda Riddell

(608) 266-9600

## Public Hearings Scheduled for We Energies Rate Case

MADISON – The Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold public hearings on November 15, 2005, in Madison, Milwaukee, Pewaukee and Racine on a request to increase electric and natural gas service rates from We Energies.

We Energies requested to increase electric rates by approximately 11%. They have also requested to increase natural gas prices by 4.8% for Wisconsin Electric Gas Operations and 6.5% for Wisconsin Gas Company.

When a utility requests a change in rates, the PSC conducts a thorough audit of the utility's forecasted expenses and revenues. The agency will look at the amount We Energies needs to provide a reliable source of energy to customers, which includes costs for maintenance, new construction, environmental protection and employee wages. The Commission will also consider the increased costs of natural gas and coal when making a decision.

Citizens are encouraged to attend the public hearings and provide testimony on We Energies' rate request. All testimony will be included in the record, which the Commission will review as it prepares to make a decision on the amount of money We Energies needs to prudently provide reliable service and sets new rates. The PSC also accepts written comments at the public hearings, through mail or electronically through the website at: <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/">http://psc.wi.gov/</a> until November 15, 2005. The hearings will be broadcasted simultaneously from four different locations at the following times:

Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Public Service Commission
Amnicon Falls Hearing Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor
610 N. Whitney Way
Madison, WI

Waukesha Technical College Pewaukee Campus 800 Main Street Pewaukee, WI Milwaukee Area Technical College 700 West State Street Milwaukee, WI

Gateway Technical College Racine Campus, Lake Building 1001 South Main Street Racine, WI

(MORE)

Telephone: (608) 266-5481 Fax: (608) 266-3957 TTY: (608) 267-1479 Home Page: http://psc.wi.gov E-mail: pscrecs@psc.state.wi.us

The hearing locations are accessible to people with wheelchairs. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Thomas Ferris at 608-266-1124.

The rate request was submitted by Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas Company d/b/a We Energies. Documents associated with their application, can be viewed on the PSC's Electronic Repository System at http://psc.wi.gov/. Click on ERF System, select Search Electronic Repository System and enter docket 5-UR-102.

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